

Fall 2000

## re: Columbia

Columbia College Chicago

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# Columbia Prepares to Showcase the School

**Re: Columbia**  
**No. 27/Fall-Winter 2000**

Biannual publication sent free of charge to alumni and friends of Columbia College Chicago



**Editor**  
Jeryl Levin, Director,  
Alumni Relations  
**Contributing Editors**  
Carol Bryant  
William (Bill) Cellini Jr.  
Mary Claire Mathews  
Kathy Millard  
Kathrene Wales  
**Contributing Writers**  
Lucia Adams  
Ryan Adair  
Michelle Kolak  
Shin Yu Pai  
**Contributing Photographers**  
Thurston Coleman  
Bob Kusel  
**Officers**  
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The programs and achievements of the "Art of Columbia College Chicago" will be broadly showcased from February 28-March 4, 2001, at the annual meeting in Our Town of the prestigious College Art Association (CAA). Most of Columbia's departments are planning special events and unique programs to impress out-of-town visitors with the vibrancy and enormous accomplishments of Columbia.

Woodie T. White, vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement said, "This concentration of events within a short time period is a huge opportunity to create excitement and interest in Columbia. It makes the college a destination for learning as well as a destination for quality entertainment."

The CAA will be holding its convention at the Hilton, just down the street from Columbia. That, says White, will give Columbia a national stage and the chance to engage 5000 teachers and artists attending the convention in the art of Columbia.

The initial coordinator of the event was Jean Perkins, who dedicated her efforts to ensuring that Columbia College creates an

unforgettable impression on the visitors. The President's Office is now coordinating and shaping the upcoming programming with numerous special events being planned, including:

**A virtual gallery**, hosted by Academic Computing, which will exhibit art and artists' statements. There also will be a reading room for recently published works of Association members.

**A special exhibition**, "Hidden," sponsored by the Center for Asian Arts and Media, will address the particularity of boundaries that separate public and private spheres, and explore the multiple meanings of space.

**A free performance** of the Black Music Repertory Ensemble, hosted by the Center for Black Music Research, along with tours of the center's library and archives.

**Major speakers** in the Getz Theater

**A special exhibition**, "Avatar's Witness," a collaboration between a Columbia faculty member and student using television and radio tape documentation.

**A special dance** performance by the Stephen Petronio Dance Company of New York, with visual design by internationally-

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ART

renowned sculptor Anish Kapoor, hosted by The Dance Center.

**A poetry reading** by Artist-in-Residence Li-Young-Lee, hosted by the English Department.

**A special window**, produced by the Fashion Design Department.

**An evening** posing the question: "How do artists in other disciplines use the basic image in both process and product?," hosted by the Fiction Writing Department.

**A lecture** by Dr. Zafra Lerman: "Integrating Science with Art, Dance, Music and Drama," hosted by the Institute for Science Education.

**A look** at the art of teaching by book and paper artists, writers and performers, hosted by Interdisciplinary Arts.

**Selected readings** from his work by nationally known actor, poet and storyteller Peter Cook, hosted by the Interpreter Training Program.

**Open rehearsals** of the Chicago Jazz Ensemble.

For more information on the "Art of Columbia College Chicago" and a full calendar of events as they become available, check out our Web site at [www.colum.edu](http://www.colum.edu).

## Cheers! Alumni Network's First Anniversary

*Dear Alums:*

As incredible as it may sound, the Columbia College Alumni Network is celebrating its first anniversary. The success of this milestone is due in no small part to your enthusiasm and support over the past year.

I am very pleased to announce that the network has grown substantially since its inception and now boasts more than 400 members and 30 business partners.

A whole-school alumni directory is also in the works and an Alumni

Network directory is nearing completion. Both directories will help alums and future alums know who's who in the ever-expanding Columbia alumni community.

We still have plenty of room to grow, so I am encouraging all alums who have not become members to please do so today. Our \$40.00 initiation fee is a real bargain!

As an added benefit, there are a host of retail shops, museums, restaurants, a credit union and others who will extend discounts and services when you show them your network membership card.

Please take a moment to complete the Alumni Network application included on the back cover of this *Re:*. Should you have any questions about future events or network perks, call the office of Alumni Relations at 312.344.7420 or e-mail us at [jlevin@popmail.colum.edu](mailto:jlevin@popmail.colum.edu).

To sign up online or to see the complete list of all network partners, go to [www.colum.edu](http://www.colum.edu) and click "alumni."

Happy holidays and thanks for a great first year!

*Sincerely,*

Bill Cellini Jr., President  
Alumni Board



alumni



# Around Columbia

The klieg lights were beaming and the red carpet streaming as Columbia College Chicago hosted a packed house for the October 26 Chicago premiere of "Men of Honor," at McClurg Court Cinemas, followed by a "homecoming" celebration that raised funds for the Film/Video Scholarship Fund.

Directed and produced by partners George Tillman Jr. ('91) and Robert Teitel ('90), "Men of Honor" is based on the true-life story of Carl Brashear, the first African American Master Navy diver. A man of humble beginnings in rural Kentucky, Brashear overcame incredible odds, including racism and the loss of his leg, to achieve his dream.

Oscar-winning actors Cuba Gooding Jr. and Robert De Niro star. Gooding is Brashear and De Niro is Billy Sunday, Brashear's superior, who gives him a run for his money. Sunday's character is based on a composite of various Navy men Brashear knew throughout his career.

More than 700 guests

attended the premiere, among them the filmmakers, their families, Columbia President's Club members, alumni, faculty and staff. Brashear was the evening's honorary chair and received a standing ovation.

But once the theater lights dimmed, all was quiet. By film's end there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The reflective mood shifted to exhilaration at the celebration immediately following the film at Nicolina's Cucina in NBC

Tower. George and Bob were home, and they were golden.

Between spirited conversation, cocktails and a sumptuous centerpiece buffet, Teitel and Tillman praised Columbia as a major force in their rising careers. "We learned how to make movies here," George told the crowd.

Indeed, while enrolled at the college in the early '90s, their student film "Paula" received the Midwestern Student Academy Award and won prizes at seven student film festivals, including the

Black Filmmakers' Hall of Fame Award.

A bolstered Tillman then wrote and directed his first feature "Scenes for the Soul." Teitel — ever the enterprising partner — raised the money to finance it. He remembers that his first check came from a plumber. Though never made, "Scenes" was sold to Savoy Pictures for \$1 million.

Next came "Soul Food," the surprise hit that Tillman wrote based on his own childhood experiences. That landed the partners a two-

year, first-look deal at Fox 2000 Pictures and the chance to work with De Niro, Gooding and Brashear.

Of Brashear, the duo said once they met him, they knew they had to tell his story on the big screen.

"We read the script in March 1997, when we were editing 'Soul Food' and fell instantly in love with it," Teitel told the crowd. "When we went to Virginia in November to meet Carl, that was it."

Brashear, dignified and gracious, praised Tillman and Teitel as two of the "finest men he had ever met." Then he presented Columbia president Warrick L. Carter with a check in honor of the evening, which also was the President's Club premier event. Tillman's wife, actress Marcia Wright-Tillman (an alumna of Columbia's Theater department), said that of all the premieres they'd attended, this evening was the best.

"It's great to be back home," she said.



Scenes from the homecoming from top l-r: De Niro and Gooding in "Men of Honor"; George Tillman Jr., George Tillman Sr. and mom Bernice at McClurg; Carl Brashear signs autographs at McClurg; MOH stunt men, twins Michael and David Fittanto with Teitel and brother David swinging at Nicolina's; Teitel, Brashear & Alison Swan Teitel arriving at theater; event co-chair Marcia Lazar, Tillman, Brashear, co-chair Bill Cellini, Teitel and college president Warrick L. Carter; Tillman and Marcia Wright-Tillman; Bob's mom Myrta Teitel (front left), Alison and family members; Ana Maria Soto lives it up at Nicolina's; director Tillman with Gooding on the MOH set.

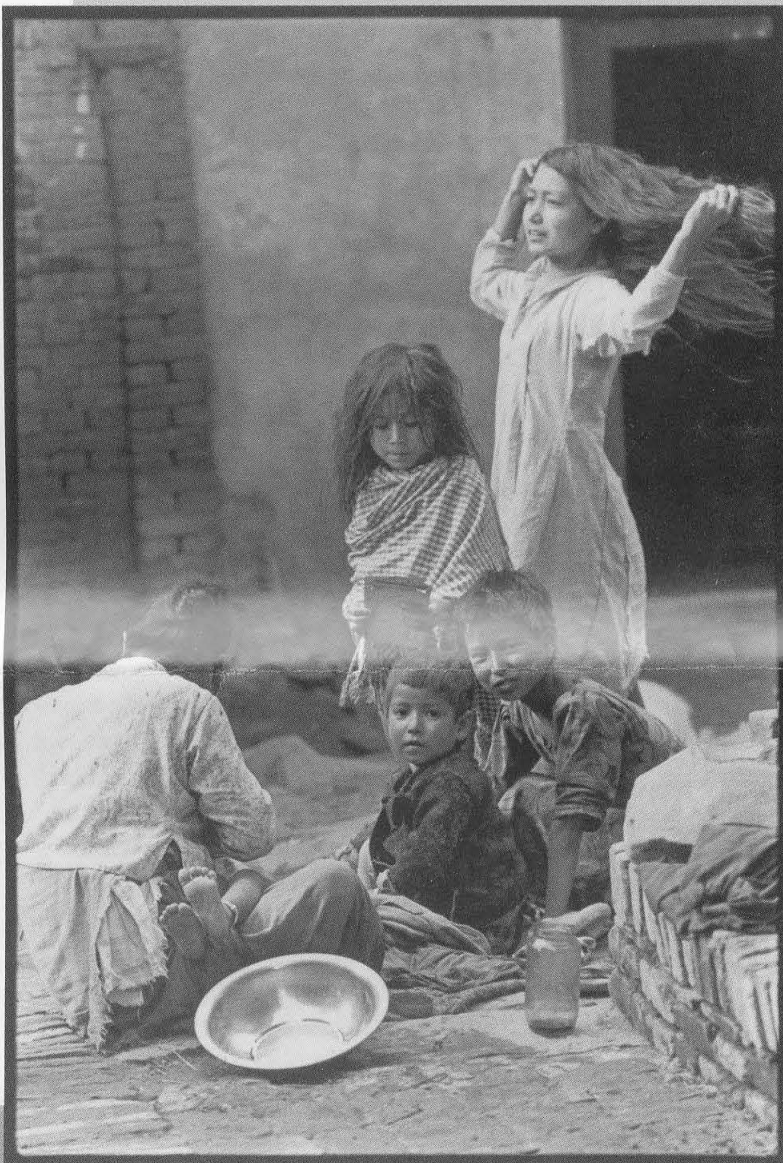




# Alumni Profile

## Matthew T. Ryan Photojournalist and Gallery Owner

*The idea of presenting and preserving a moment, a memory and emotion is what attracted me to photography. I was able to take full advantage of that at Columbia.*



Mother's Love ©Matthew Ryan



Brothers ©Matthew Ryan

In the summer of 1998, after graduating Columbia with a major in Photography, Matthew Ryan received an invitation to visit his brother Timothy, who was serving in the Peace Corps in Nepal. One of 12 children from a South Side Chicago Irish-Catholic family, Matthew Ryan had always wanted to travel. What he didn't know was that the trip would have a profound effect on his life and the way he viewed his place in the world.

Matt spent five months traveling the Nepali countryside, studying the language and culture and photographing people and places along the way. Deeply affected by the poverty and strength of the women and children, he began to document them. In Katmandu, he photographed children roaming the streets without adequate clothing or shelter, yet possessing a spirit and sense of emotional wealth that surprised him. He traveled to remote villages, photographing and forming relationships with his subjects.

When Matt returned to the states, he had changed. "Upon processing my film, I finally could grasp just how much I had learned and just how deeply it touched me," he said. "I knew I needed to do something to challenge my newly-found energy, direction and respect for life." So he moved to Denver and opened Aperture Gallery in September 1999. The first exhibition was "Children on the Roof," his black-and-white photographs of the Nepali children.

Aperture Gallery is located in Denver's Highland neighborhood, a community known for its diverse ethnic and artistic population. Matt renovated the 1,800 square-foot space himself and says its early 20th century storefront construction reminds him of Chicago.

Ryan operates Aperture on a non-commission basis; he charges a flat-rate hanging fee, which covers all costs and services provided by the gallery. He passes the savings on to the exhibitors, who can then pass the savings on to the buyer.

Aperture Gallery is open to all formats and photographic mediums, as long as the work is professional quality and ready to hang. The space can handle single exhibits and juried shows. An online gallery is under construction.

Matt welcomes inquiries from Columbia alums and others interested in showing their work at Aperture. Contact him at Aperture Gallery, 3208 Tejon Street, Denver, CO 303.561.0635 or e-mail [aperturegallery@netscape.net](mailto:aperturegallery@netscape.net).



# Alumni



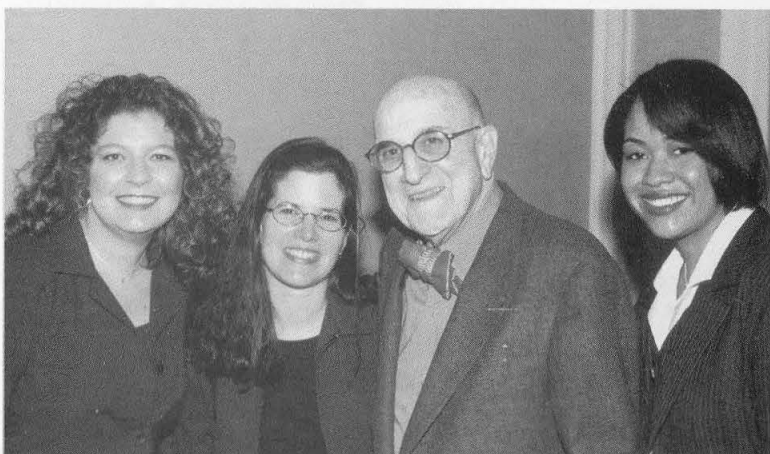
A scene from Phillip Bartel's award-winning "Crush," part of the 20th Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival



"One Week" producer Phil James (l-r) with filmmaker alums Kenny Young, Carl Seaton Jr. and fellow alum Thurston Coleman at the Chicago International Film Festival.



Cameraman David Tolsky (front r) on the set of "Seinfeld's" last episode



Producer Marla Blanton (r) with (l-r) Dawn Roberts, Stacy Carr and the Television department's Ed Morris

## '79

**Hank Grover** completed principal photography as producer on the feature film "The Apology." He also line-produced a commercial and electronic press kit for the California Science Center highlighting "Magic, the Science of Illusion," a museum installation featuring magicians Penn and Teller.

## '83

**David Tolsky** can be found on the CBS lot as first assistant cameraman on Emmy award-winning "Will & Grace." He's also working on an outline for a sitcom seminar he hopes to take to students at Columbia. David's other camera credits include the features: "Loverboy," "The Burbs," "Gremlins II," "Frank and Jesse," and sitcoms "The Single Guy," "Seinfeld," "Moesha," and "DAG."

## '84

**Garry Buck** is vice president of Monterey International, a California-based talent agency representing artists Buddy Guy, Koko Taylor & Her Blues Machine, Sergeant Garcia, Wayne Tups and Cesar Rosas, among many others.

## '87

**Bob Hollister** runs The History Repeats Itself Entertainment Group, which performs a variety of historical scenarios for corporate and charity events, hotel event weekends, Renaissance Faires, Wild West shows and other special events. Hollister also works for JPM Productions at Six Flags Great America and this year was the casting recruiter for "Fright Fest," its Halloween extravaganza. Bob married writer and performer Robyn on January 1 and is planning a move to Lake Geneva.

## '93

**Al Stein**, Weisman Scholarship winner in '93, is producer of "Rocking the Boat: Studs Terkel's 20th Century," for KCTS PBS.

**Mike Harrigan** is associate-producing a documentary for AMC. He's also working with his agents and Miramax Television on a reality-based tv show he created entitled "The Plant," and producing

and acting in a movie he wrote, entitled "The Least Likely Candidate." Mike said: "I'm doing something with my degree and would love to give back to Columbia in any capacity I can."

**Melina Patterson** graduated from the University of Chicago Law School last June. She recently began a career in Intellectual Property Litigation with Silicon Valley-based Cooley Godward.

**Mark Harris**, profiled recently in *N'DIGO*, is writer/director of "Roses Without Thorns," which chronicles the experiences of children who are wards of the state. He's sold and distributed the film to friends, family members and church organizations to raise funds for his next film, "Thorn in Her Womb" about women in the Englewood, Chicago community, who have been sexually abused and murdered there. Other works in development include a black knock-off of the "Blair Witch Project," in which the spirit of a black gangster killed by Al Capone haunts an area in Michigan.

**Kenny Young** ('93) and **Carl Seaton** ('94) previewed their award-winning film, "One Week," at the Chicago International Film Festival, October 6-7. Theater-goers jammed the venue at 600 N. Michigan and a standing-room only crowd dictated an impromptu third screening for those turned away. Chicago natives now living in LA, Seaton and Young founded their company Griot Filmworks to produce films that speak to the contemporary African American experience. Made for under \$1 million, "One Week" is the story of Varon Thomas (played by Young) who discovers he may have contracted HIV one week before his wedding. A comedic drama, "One Week" was shot entirely in Chicago using local talent and resources, including financing from family and friends. On hand to greet Seaton and Young for the Chicago debut was fellow alum, writer/director George Tillman Jr. ("Soul Food," "Men of Honor"). While here Seaton and Young also led a panel discussion at Columbia and met with president Warrick L. Carter.

## '94

**Lonnie Martin** is vice president of Emergency Response and Notification Services for Educational Networks of America, a Nashville-based company providing Web-based applications and services to government and educators.

## '95

**Yves Menou** is in New York producing and editing promotional and training videos for Girl Scouts of America.

**Dawn Robles** is vice president of production at Digital Realm Entertainment Group in Oak Brook. Her recently-produced 50-episode series for Fox Health Network is "Food for Life." Currently she's producing "Sowing Seeds," a celebration of faith groups nationwide, for the Odyssey Network, which will air January 2001.

**Annie Esp** (Servedio) has just finished editing a behind-the-scenes look at composer/musician Mark O'Connor and violinist Nadja Serno-Sonnenberg, which is part of the "Ravinia Under the Stars" series for WTTW/PBS. She recently edited a "Handy Ma'am" home repair show for women with Beverly DiJulio, which also airs on PBS. Annie works as a news editor for WGN-Channel 9.

**Brian Fisher** works for Dallas-based Exhibit Creators, Inc. The company designs and manufactures trade show displays, including everything from tabletops and pop-ups to custom booths complete with all the services and accessories.

## '97

**Marla Blanton** is associate producer for ABC News Productions in New York. She currently produced "Attica," which addresses the 1971 prison riots and their lasting effects on the penal system, airing this month on the Discover channel.

**Britt Blomquist** is the pr director for Ala Carte Entertainment, which owns and operates more than 20 nightclubs, restaurants (and one gym) in the Chicago metro area. Britt's most recent accomplishment was generating the publicity for



# Notes

the infamous \$10,000 "tip" story, which happened in his property, the Leg Room.

## '99

**Todd Hofacker** worked on the set of "ER" before leaving Chicago for LA. Now he's working in film development with writer/producer Brad Silberling ("City of Angels," "Casper," "Felicity," "NYPD Blue.")

**Tiffany Poetsch** is new media manager at Norris Cultural Arts Center, where she oversees design and execution of all marketing, advertising and pr activities.

**Ngina James** received an acting scholarship into the performing arts program of the prestigious American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC.

## '00

**Louis Calvano**, Fiction Writing grad and Class 2000 valedictorian, won the monthly and quarterly essay contest offered by Fly in the Soup.com.

**Lynde Gillis** is a semi-finalist in the 2001 Miss Illinois USA Pageant. She will be judged on the basis of intelligence, poise, personality, beauty of face and figure and grooming. Lynde is the winner of the Kenneth Cole & Marshall Field's "Project Imagine" Scholarship and an honors graduate.

## More Alumni News...

Fox's **Bob Sirott** was the guest speaker at Columbia's New Student Convocation in October... **Mark Black** is photo assignment editor at the *Daily Herald*... **Dave Carlson's** dramatic short "Sailorman" was screened last month at the Chicago International Film Festival... **Jennifer Della-Peruta** opened Dell's Dance Academy in Ingleside... **Courtney Peterson** opened C's Music Emporium in Homewood/Flossmoor. C's sells cassettes and CDs and features an in-store, 32-track recording studio... **Guy Giuliano** is vice president of programming for Onlinemusic.com, which features more than 200 online radio stations in its network. Guy started one of the country's first online radio stations, BombRadio.com, which was later acquired by

the Emusic.com Corporation... **Janusz Kaminski** began principal photography on Steven Spielberg's newest film "A.I." (Artificial Intelligence), a project started by the late Stanley Kubrick. Kaminski was recently featured on the cover of the *New York Times* "Weekend" section (Oct. 6)... **Peter Teschner** edited the No. 1 film "Charlie's Angels"... **Mauro Fiore** is now shooting "Champs," a Stallone film set in the world of cart racing. Fiore also shot the Stallone film "Get Carter"... **ChriStale Gray** is working as a model/actress in Chicago and hopes to one day work for cousin and fellow alum **F. Gary Gray**, who she describes as one of "Hollywood's hottest directors." Gray directed "Set it Off" and "Negotiator," starring Kevin Spacey and Samuel Jackson... Alumni Board president **Bill Cellini** is temporarily in LA, working at International Film Guarantors, a film bonding company. Bill's also been chosen as a member of the production department on the Lakeshore Entertainment film, "The Apartments," starring Oscar winner Hillary Swank... **Antonio Perez's** photography is part of the "Americanos" exhibit at the Field Museum... **Charles Edwards** published *America's First*, a novel about the first black man to become president. Edwards, who works for the city's Department of Revenue, was profiled by writer Ben Joravsky in the *Chicago Reader*... **Bud Kerwin's** a voice-over actor and producer. His play, "Mickey Finn," ran at the Royal George Theater and the Beverly Arts Center... After Columbia, **John King** returned to his native Louisiana to begin his professional career as a visual artist. His images explore light and shadow movement through glass treatments... **Tisha Fulton** is part of the Saks Fifth Avenue merchant team in NYC and just completed the buyer training program. She says after completing the program she "couldn't stop smiling"... **Patty McNair-Lewis'** short story, "The Way it Really Went," was published in the summer issue of *Second Chances Are...Other Voices...* **Drew Ferguson's** short story, "Erase," was published in the Summer 2000 issue of *Blithe House Quarterly*. He'll guest edit the Fall 2000 issue... **Lott**

**Hill** is director of the Writer's Voice at the Duncan YMCA/Chernin Center for the Arts... **Lattice Porter's** first book of poetry, "Words of Enlightenment," was published by Watermark Press... **Linda Trask** got an honorable mention in *Writer's Digest* for her short story "1993 Me and No Man"... **Sam Weller's** been appearing at local bookstores to sign and discuss his punchy little guidebook "Secret Chicago," which WGN Radio host Steve Cochran called "an excellent toilet read" and the Chicago *Tribune* proclaimed "endlessly entertaining with a sly sense of humor"... **Phillip Bartel** screened and discussed his award-winning short film "Crush," as part of the 20th Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival... **John Littman** made his directorial debut with "The Legacy Jig," a story about a young single father torn between resolving old feuds with his brother and taking responsibility for his daughter during his mother's health crisis. "Jig" won the "Heartland Award" and the "Audience Award for Best Picture" at Columbia College Chicago Big Screen 2000... **Wendell Houston** works as a staff writer for the *Illinois Real Estate Journal*. He covers multi-housing, senior housing and retail... **Chester Gregory II** won a Jeff Award for his performance in the Black Ensemble Theatre's "The Jackie Wilson Story"...

## Thanks, Gloria!

Columbia College Chicago trustee and television alumna **Gloria Lehr** generously donated a 42" Kawai console piano valued at \$4,500 to the Music Department.

## Passings

**Charles E. Yeager**, ('64), due to aspired pneumonia. The family, Anita and Charles E. Yeager, note that remembrances may be sent to the charity of choice or to the Lakota Sioux Indian Tribe, Indian School, Chamberlain, SD 57326.

## Alums,

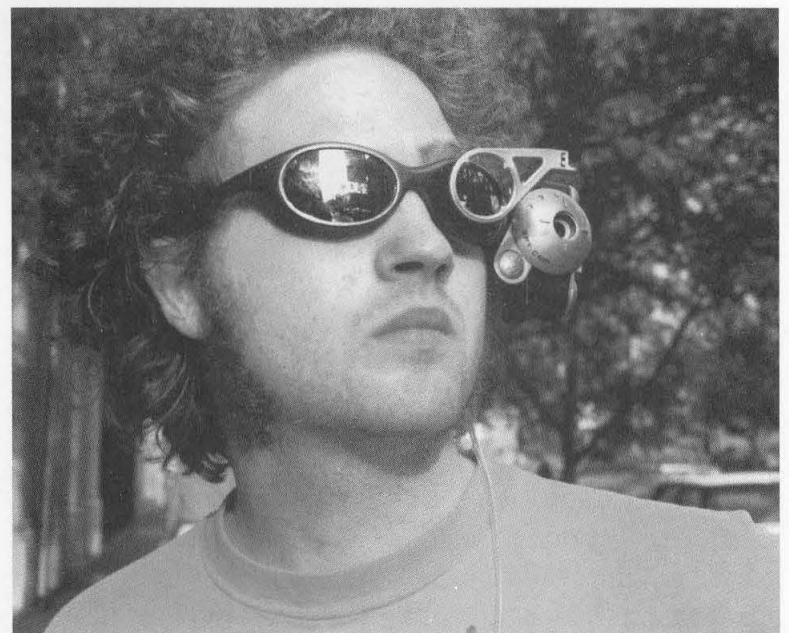
We love hearing your e-news (and getting your letters)! E-mail news of what you're doing to [jlevin@popmail.colum.edu](mailto:jlevin@popmail.colum.edu). We accept electronic images. You can also drop us a note via U.S. mail at Alumni Relations, Columbia College Chicago, 600 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60605. When sending photos, be sure to label them and provide a self-addressed return envelope.



ChriStale Gray



Director John Littman (left) at the Heartland Awards with Master of Ceremonies John Dye ("Touched by an Angel")



John King sporting his "Spy Cam." John's currently working on a photo essay called "Spy America."



# The Art of the Book

by Shin Yu Pai

Some of the most important dealers of antiquarian books and maps transformed the first floor of the Ludington building into a book browsers' paradise, as the First Annual Festival of the Book unfolded this last summer.

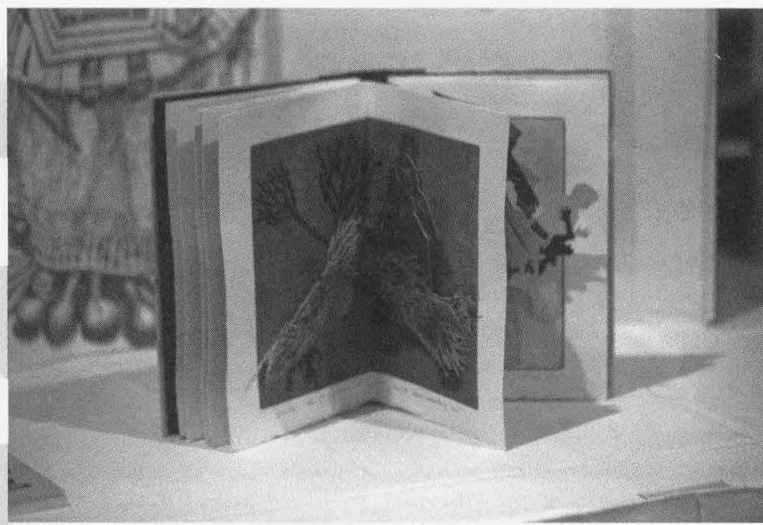
Hosted by The Center for Book and Paper Arts of Columbia College Chicago, the festival featured a diverse range of exhibitors representing presses working in digital imaging and desktop publishing, alongside traditional book artists.

Moleiro Editor, S.A., headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, specializes in the reproduction of illuminated manuscripts from the Middle Ages covering astronomy, geography, medicine and bestiary. Rich with illustrations and fine detail, these facsimile editions replicate the original manuscripts in all elements, from paper, smell, weight and binding to the reproduction of damages sustained by the original texts. Using handmade paper, which simulates properties of the original velum, images from the source texts are digitally scanned on to the paper. Illuminations are then applied in a secondary process.

Unlike other exhibitors at the festival, Octavo Digital Imaging Laboratory created a simple table-top display of CD-Roms and an interactive laptop computer featuring Octavo's newest release: Andrea Palladio's *Quattro Libri dell'Architettura*, one of the most famous and influential architectural books ever published. Octavo CEO and Publisher Czeslaw Grycz explained, "By working in partnership with major libraries and institutions around the country, Octavo provides greater public access to archival materials through digital publishing."

Through the use of high-quality digital photography, data is processed enabling the storage of master images for reading, printing and reference. By clicking on an image, a viewer is able to examine in detail a rare book that would be kept out of the hands of a casual reader under most other circumstances.

Carol Grossman, proprietor of Four Rivers Books, Ltd., is co-founder of the Fine Press Book Association (FPBA), a group promoting the appreciation and production of books pairing the art of printing with artistic expression. Carol carries books in her collection



ranging from delicately constructed pop-up books to the jewel of her collection, a leather-bound Leonard Baskin priced at \$7,000. She also carries handsome editions produced through desktop publishing.

"When the FPBA was first founded, there was this contingent of individuals who wanted to focus exclusively on promoting letterpress," Carol said. There are only two foundries in the country who make metal type. Polymer plates and offset printing have revolutionized desktop publishing."

Carol said Welsh publisher David Eslemont summed it up when he said, "If we were still taking this position in Gutenberg's day, we'd still be writing with quill pens!"

Four Rivers Books also carried my favorite piece in

the entire exhibition: a 1947 edition of David Hunter's *Paper-Making in Indochina*. A narrative of Hunter's travel through the paper-making villages of Hanoi, this text is interspersed with recipes for cooking bark and black-and-white photographs of villagers harvesting paper-making materials. The book provided a magical view into the creative process of book-making, made even more resonant by my surroundings.

Other festival exhibitors included the *Journal of Contemporary Photography* and

the University of Iowa Center for the Book. Many of the individual book artists and dealers participating in the festival sell their one-of-a-kind books to librarians and private collectors by showcasing at bookfairs around the country.

Columbia trustee and owner of Powell's Bookstore, Brad Jonas, came up with the idea to host a book fair at Columbia, which would showcase the new facilities of the college's Center for Book and Paper Arts.

The largest book arts center in the U.S., the center offers classes in subjects ranging from letterpress to the book as structure. During the festival, concurrent demonstrations of papermaking and bookbinding were constructed in the center's facilities.

For further information on the Center for Book and Paper Arts and its programs, call 312.344-6630.



Bill Drendel (center), executive director of the Center for Book and Paper Arts, with exhibitors at the Festival of the Book.

## Columbia Mourns Death of Al Parker

by Ryan Adair

Al Parker, former chairman of the Radio and Sound department, died on Saturday, September 30 at his residence in Highland Park. He was 74.

Parker spent 54 years at Columbia, setting up various broadcasting programs and classes.

He recently retired from his position as department head and had returned from a brief sabbatical. He was still employed as a full-time teacher in the Radio department at the time of his death.

His most notable accomplishments include helping to establish WCRX-FM, the all student radio station that provides hands-on experience for radio majors. He also launched the Al Parker Scholarship Fund that coincided with the celebration of his 50th year of teaching here at Columbia.

Parker got his start in



radio after serving in World War II. He became an on-air personality in the Chicago area with such stations as WIND, WJJD and WKBK-TV, known today as WLS-TV. He was also the announcer for the "Oprah Winfrey Show" through 1989.

In addition to his work in radio and academics, Parker was a well-known commercial announcer and did many freelance voiceovers. He was also the voice that greeted anyone who called Columbia through a special

pre-recorded message.

Parker was inducted earlier this year into the Chicago Television Academy's Silver Circle. The Silver Circle honors those who have served 25 years or more in the television industry.

"Al was the finest teacher I've ever met. He had such a natural ability and was a tremendous motivator for students," said Barbara Calabrese, acting chair of the Radio department.

Roz Varon, transportation reporter for WLS-TV and a former student of Parker's, perhaps summed it up best: "Al was always encouraging and so instrumental in helping my career grow," she said. "He was my mentor, my peer and my friend. This is a loss that will effect me for a long time."

Parker is survived by his wife Jeanne; daughter, Marla Green; sons Neil and Dan; and six grandchildren.

Ryan Adair is a contributing editor to the *Columbia Chronicle*

## Go Zafra!



Dr. Zafra Lerman, head of Columbia's Institute for Science Education, received the Jose Vasconcelos World Award of Education 2000, given by the World Cultural Council in recognition of valuable and pioneering contributions in Science Education. The ceremony

was held November 1 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Lerman was also awarded the 2000 American Institute of Chemists Joseph Hyman Ethics Award, in recognition of "individuals who perform their duties dictated by ethical consideration in the face of difficulties, for the benefit of the public and/or workers in chemistry and chemical engineering."

This summer the Science Institute conducted a three-week intensive science enhancement workshop for Chicago Public School teachers, as part of a five-year, \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation.



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